CLAIMS

1. A post-gastrically available delayed release oral (DRO) or rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD, said composition comprising a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC as a therapeutically active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.

3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC

4. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the polysaccharide is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.

5. A DRO composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

6. A DRO composition as claimed in Claim 5 which is an enteric coated dosage form adapted to release its contents within the region of the jejunum to the colon.

7. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4.

8. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 which is a liquid enema or foam enema.

9. A liquid enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in a concentration of 0.4 to 2 % w/w.

10. A foam enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in a concentration of 1.4 to 2.5 w/w.

11. A liquid enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in a concentration of 1 to 20 % w/w.

12. A foam enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in a concentration of 2.5 to 25 % w/w.

13. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in an amount of 400 to 2000 mg per unit dose.

14. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in an amount of 1 to 20 g per unit dose..

15. A DRO composition as claimed in Claim 5 or Claim 6, wherein the unit dose of the polysaccharide is 400 to 2000 mg.

16. The use of a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC as a therapeutically active agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD.

17. A use as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the polysaccharide is the sole therapeutically active agent in the medicament.

18. A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is pouchitis.

19. A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is left-sided ulcerative colitis.

20. A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is Crohn's Disease.

21. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 16 to 20, wherein the medicament is a composition as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 15.

22. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD comprising contacting the diseased mucosa of the gastro-intestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC.